

**Passenger Rail**  
**Presentation to the Colorado Transportation Finance and**  
**Implementation Panel**

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Trains are safe, reliable, comfortable, hassle-free, energy efficient, low polluting and utilize the least amount of land per passenger served.

**What is Passenger Rail?**

- Trolleys/Streetcars - operate in mixed traffic, frequent stops
- Light Rail - more restricted R-O-W, overhead wire, fewer stops
- Heavy Rail (Metro) - restricted access, third rail, elevated platforms
- Commuter Rail - passenger trains serving riders in & out of cities
- Intercity Rail - trains connecting one or more cities, non-commuters
- Long Distance/National Network - Amtrak Cal Zephyr, SW Chief

**How do other states provide passenger rail?**

- NC - State owns tracks and runs trains
- IL, WA, MO, MI, ME, OK etc. - State pays Amtrak to run trains
- NM - Rail Runner - State owns track, regional COG runs trains
- UT - Front Runner - State buys R-O-W, transit authority runs trains
- CA - Capitol Corridor - Joint powers authority coordinates operations
- FL - Tri-Rail - State initiates train as road construction mitigation
- VT - Champlain Flyer - State initiates commuter train on the cheap
- CA - Metrolink - Transit agency owns tracks, runs trains
- IL - Metra - Transit agency runs trains on private railroads

**Opportunities for Passenger Rail in Colorado**

- Front Range - FTC-DEN-COS-PUB -- jobs & population -- a natural corridor exists but most freight train traffic needs to be moved
- I-70 Mountain Corridor - recreation
- Rocky Mt. Rail Authority feasibility study
- Passenger rail as a means of mitigating highway construction
- Constructing passenger rail on an incremental basis
- Coordinate rail services with intercity bus as well as local transit
- Identify the costs of transportation to Coloradans including public and private expenditures. An economic analysis of transportation would look at this total expenditure and determine which transportation scenarios can most effectively reduce or control these costs.